

Baby Steps

Created by Katsuki Hikaru

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Kyoji Kio

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Thanks a lot for your support!



SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

31



Baby Steps
ベイベーステップ

勝木 光

Baby Steps

ベビーステップ

31



かつ き ひかる
勝木 光

超強豪勢揃い!! IMGの仲間達



Baby Steps





IF I CAN
BREAK HERE
AND KEEP MY
NEXT SERVE,
I'LL WIN.



IF HE
COMES AT ME
AGAIN WITH
HIS FORTÉ
SERVE AND
VOLLEY...



I'LL SURPASS
THE LIMITS OF
HIS EYES ONCE
AGAIN.



	1	2	3
MARUO ENCHIRO	6	4	
PETE GONZALEZ	4	4	

I'LL
BREAK
IN ANO-
THER TWO
POINTS.



18X FILE





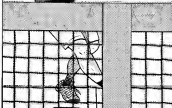




HE
REACTED!!



IT'S
FAST... BUT IF
I'M EXPECTING IT,
I CAN REACT.



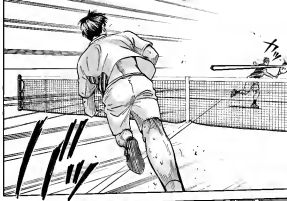
I CAN
SCORE OFF
YOU!



BUT HE
COULDN'T
CONTROL
IT.

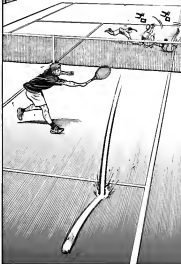


WOE'S THAT?
IT WON'T GET ME
A POINT BUT NOW
THAT YOU WON'T
HIT A STRONG
BALL...



**NUA
AAH!!!**









SPR. MILLER



SPR. MILLER



SPR. JAM



SPR. JAM



HOWEVER I'M
STILL IN TROUBLE.
MAYBE I ACTUALLY AM
RELYING TOO MUCH
ON POWER...

DON'T PANIC, I
COULD REACT TO
HIS FAST BALL.

SURE, I HIT
IT PERFECTLY
TOD.

THAT'S NOT SOME-
THING I CAN CHANGE
RIGHT NOW THOUGH. IT'S
SOMETHING TO WORK ON
AFTER THE MATCH.

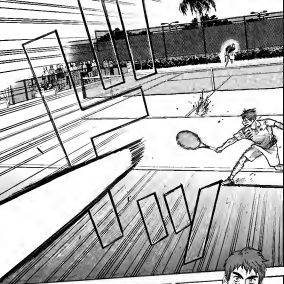
EVEN IF HE
TRIES IT AGAIN
I'LL DEFINITELY BE
ABLE TO GET IT.

RIGHT NOW...

MY BEST BET IS
TO BELIEVE IN AND
PURSUE MY OWN
TENNIS.

A
CENTRE?







DAMN!
NOW HE DE-
CIDES TO USE
THOSE FAST
SERVES...

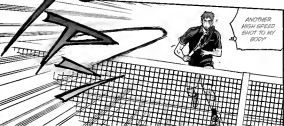
OH!
LIKE THAT
ARE UN-
AVAILABLE
I'VE GOT
TO CHANGE
GEARS

HIS
FORM SAYS
CENTRE...

I'LL PAY
A LITTLE MORE
ATTENTION TO
THE CENTER...

PROB
CAN'T EVEN
LAND SERVES
LIKE THAT CON-
SECUTIVELY

IT'S A-
READY





MY STROKES
ARE ALREADY
ACCOMMODATED
TO IT...



BUT MY NEXT
STROKE WILL BE KEY.
THAT'S WHERE I'LL
SCORE!



BUT...



HE'S
DRIVEN
ME INTO A
CORNER!



THIS
IS WHAT
I'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR!



FOR PETE TO
BE IN POSITION
TO SCORE WITH
HIS VOLLEYS, HE
HAD TO COME
UP CLOSE...

THOSE THREE
BALLS LANDED
AT HIS BODY
WERE ALL FOR
THIS LOB



HE GOT ME!



YEESSS!!



GAME MARUO
5 — 4
SECOND SET!!

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GAME MARUO

5 — 4

SECOND SET

#290 TRANSFORMATION

YES!!
I BROKE
HIS
SERVE!!

HE'S SO
STRONG—OR
RATHER DAMN
SKILFUL!

IT'S OVER IF
MARUO KEEPS
THE NEXT GAME.

HE'S SERVING
FOR THE MATCH!

PETE, YOU
BETTER RECOVER!!
IT'S ONLY JUST
GETTING STARTED!



HE'S
GOOD...



I GOT TOO
WORKED UP OVER
MARLO'S POWER
TECHNIQUES.

HE WAS
PROBABLY
AWARE OF
THAT TOO.



NO. THIS ISN'T
THE TIME TO BE
IMPRESSED.

HOW MANY LOBS
AM I GOING TO LET
THROUGH IN ONE
MATCH...



THOSE CLEARLY
TARGETED SHOTS
ARE WHAT HAVE
PAINTED THIS
MATCH.

THERE IS
MEANING BEHIND
EVERY SINGLE
ONE OF HIS
SHOTS.



I UNDERSTAND
THAT IT'S NOT
GOING TO BE
EASY TO DO
THAT IN SUCH
A COMPETITIVE
MATCH AS THIS
THOUGH.

BUT AS
LONG AS I
CAN KEEP
MY SERVE
AS I HAVE
DONE SO
FAR, I'LL
WIN.



ALRIGHT...
SOMEHOW
I PULLED
THAT OFF.

I CAN'T HIT
ANYMORE BODY
SHOTS, SO IF
I DON'T FINISH
THIS HERE,
THINGS WILL
GET TOUGH.



I'M JUST GONNA
HAVE TO BREAK
HERE...!



I'LL FOCUS
AND PUT AN
END TO THIS
NOW...!



	1	2	3
MARUO	6	5	
PETE	4	4	

HOWEVER, JUST
SIMPLY FINISHING
DOWN THE TARGET OF
AND SERVICES IS GOING
TO BE DIFFICULT



SEND
A SLICE
SERVE WIDE
WITH FULL
CONTROL!



WHERE COULD I
ATTACK WITH A
FOREHAND TO STEAL
THE INITIATIVE



I WON'T
LET HIM
ATTACK
WITH HIS
FOREHAND
EASILY!



I SHOULDN'T
HAVE TO
WORRY NOW.
I WON'T
GIVE HIM THE
INITIATIVE



WITH
STRONG
TOPSPIN!!



NEXT I'LL
HIT IT HIGH
TOWARDS
PETE'S
BACKHAND...



DEPENDING
ON HOW PETE
RESPONDS
TO THIS WILL
DETERMINE
THE OUT-
COME



ATTACKING
THIS POINT
WILL FORM
THE BASIS
FOR MY
STRATEGY
AGAINST
PETE.

PETE'S
ONE-HANDED
BACKHANDS FROM
A HIGH POINT LACK
POWER, BUT ARE
MORE STABLE THAN
HIS FOREHANDS.







...!



STILL,
WHAT AN
INSANE
BALL...

THAT WAS
OUT BY
MORE
THAN A
METRE...

OUT
15 - 0



MY TAKE-BACK
WILL END UP IN A
HIGHER POSITION
THAN USUAL...

WHAT JUST
HAPPENED? IN ANY
CASE, IF I SWING AS
HARD AS I CAN...



BASEBALL AND
TENNIS AREN'T
ALIKE IN HOW YOU
USE YOUR BODY...

BUT WHILE A LEFT-
HANDED BATTER'S SWING
AND A RIGHT-HANDED TENNIS
PLAYER'S BACKSWING MAY
NOT USE THE EXACT SAME
MUSCLES...

I MAY BE ABLE
TO USE MUSCLES
CLOSE TO THOSE.



ALMOST AS IF
I'M BATTING...

NO, I'M SURE I USED
THE SAME KIND OF
STRENGTH I USE
WHEN BATTING.

IT'S NOT JUST MY LOWER
BODY, FROM THE CENTRE OF
MY BODY ALL THE WAY UP TO MY
RIGHT SHOULDER... IT FELT LIKE
I USED MUSCLES I USED TO USE
CONSTANTLY FOR YEARS, BUT
HAVEN'T IN A WHILE.



TENNIS

WHILE CONTROL, BUT
BECAUSE CONTROL
ISN'T NECESSARY
THIS IS THE ONLY
THING YOU NEED TO
NOT BE MISLEADING



BASEBALL

WHILE CONTROL
AND BY CLANG THE
SOUND, IT'S YOUR BODY
YOUR BODY IS MUCH
TO PRODUCE.

IF THAT IS THE
CASE, WHAT CAN
I DO TO STOP IT
FROM GOING SO
FAR OUT...?

IF I CAN CORRECT
MY LAST BATTING-LIKE
SWING TO BE MORE
TENNIS-LIKE...

BATTING IN BASEBALL
REQUIRES LESS PRECISE
CONTROL THAN A SWING
IN TENNIS, SO YOU HAVE
TO TAKE CARE NOT TO
OVER-ROTATE YOUR
BODY...

I SHOULD
BE ABLE TO
WORK IT OUT.



I MAY
STILL MAKE
IT IN TIME.

IT
DOESN'T
CHANGE THE
FACT I HAVE
THE ADVAN-
TAGE!

IF SO, I NEED
TO PAY EXTRA
ATTENTION...
ALTHOUGH
IT'S ALSO
EVIDENCE
I HAVE NOW
CORNERED.

I CAN'T
IMAGINE PETE
GETTING
DESPERATE
AT SUCH AN
IMPORTANT
STAGE IN THE
MATCH.

IS HE TRYING
TO CHANGE
SOMETHING...?





AIM TO HIT
IT MORE LIKE
A LINER...

RATHER
THAN A
HOMERUN.



Bababw7



TAKE BACK TO A
HIGHER POSITION
THAN USUAL...



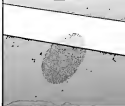


It...



I...

15 — 15



IT'S IN!



THAT POWER IS
CRAZY FOR A
SINGLE-HANDED
BACKSWING FROM
SUCH A HIGH
POSITION



PETE'S
THE ONLY
PERSON WHO
COULD PULL
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
OFF

HE SWUNG
THAT LIKE A
BASEBALL
BAT!



NICE ONE,
PETE!



IF I CAN...

TAKE THIS
SHOT A BIT MORE
AND ADD IT TO MY
ARSENAL...



IT WAS IN
THIS IS GOOD!

I MIGHT BE ABLE
TO APPLY MY BASEBALL
EXPERIENCE TO TENNIS
MORE THAN I THOUGHT
POSSIBLE...

BUT JUST HOW
FAR WILL I BE ABLE
TO TAKE IT WITHIN
THIS MATCH...?

IT'LL COMBINE
BOTH A WIDE
DEFENSIVE RANGE
WITH A STRONG
RETURN.

I WILL COMPLETE
THIS FLAWLESS
ONE-HANDED
BACKHAND.

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO? AM I
FOR THAT
BACKHAND?
AVOID IT?

FOR
NOW, I
SHOULDN'T
...







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#291 A FAIR MATCH



YES!

15 — 30





Babe Ruth



IF IT GETS
TO THAT,
PETE WILL
BE ABLE
TO PULL OFF
AN UNBE-
LIEVABLE
VARIETY OF
ATTACKS

I SHOULD
ASSUME ITS
SUCCESS-
RATE IS ONLY
GOING TO
INCREASE
FROM HERE
ON OUT...

E. Maruo
(JPN)

65

P. Gonzales
(USA)

44

...SO
BEFORE
THAT, I'LL
FINISH
THIS!



IN THE END,
I'M STILL
THE ONE
WHO WAS
CORNERED

AND
BEFORE, I
SHOULDN'T
WORRY
MYSELF
OVER IT
TOO MUCH



① HIS TAKE-BACK
IS HIGH, AS IF
HE'S BATTING
IN BASEBALL

② HE USES IT
TO DECIDE THE
POINT (MAYBE
BECAUSE THE
RISK IS HIGH?)

③ SO FAR,
HE'S ONLY HIT
PLAYS WITH IT

④ THE FORCE IS
ROUGHLY THE
SAME AS HIS
FOREHAND

WHAT I
KNOW FROM
THOSE PAST
TWO BALLS
IS...





IF HE CAN USE
THAT BACKHAND
WITH A HIGH BALL...
THEN WHAT ABOUT
A LOW ONE...



YOU'RE
GONNA
USE THAT
BACKHAND
AGAINST A
LOW BALL
AS WELL?



HE'S COME UP
TO THE NET!



IF YOU
WILL...



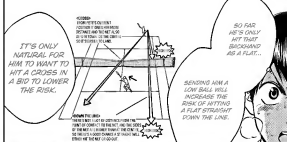
THEN
IT'LL COME
HERE!!



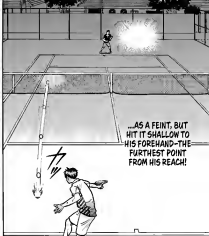


30 — 30











T-THAT WAS
INCREDIBLE.

40 - 30



AT LONG LAST,
IT'S MARILO'S
MATCH POINT...

DIG DEEP,
PETE!



YESS!



HE'D ONLY
JUST FOUND THE
WEAKNESS OF MY
BACKHAND!

WHY DID
HE GO WITH A
DROP THERE?

Brackets!



PURSuing A STYLE
TO OVERWHELM
HIS OPPONENTS
WITH POWER HAS
PROBABLY WORKED
TO HIS STRENGTH
UNTIL NOW, BUT IT'S
ALSO BECOME HIS
WEAKNESS...

HAH

HAH

THERE
ARE TIMES
WHEN PETE IS
ONLY ABLE TO
FOCUS ON ONE
THING...



OHAY, IT'S
MY MATCH
POINT!



IT
LOOKS LIKE
MARIO-KUN
IS ACTUALLY
A CUT ABOVE
PETE.



YOU'VE GOT TO BE
KIDDING... THERE'S
NO WAY I'LL LET IT
END THIS EASILY.

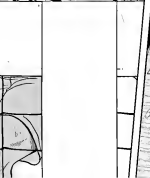
SF& PCL

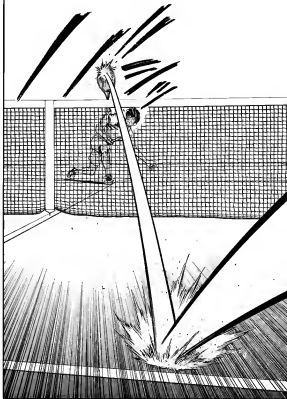












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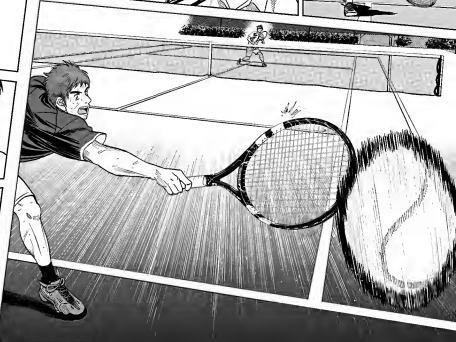
Kyoji Koi

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GA...



GAME SET AND
MATCH WON BY
EIICHIRO MARUO.

SCORE IS
6 - 4 6 - 4

YOU DID WELL
TO WIN WITH
THE PHYSIQUE
DIFFERENCE!

THAT WAS
AN AMAZING
MATCH!

CONGRATULATIONS!
MARUO!

YOU DID
WELL TOO, PETE!
NICE GAME!

I ACTUALLY
WON!

I WON.







IT'S FRUSTRATING
BUT...



AH...
SORRY,
PETE.



IT WAS FUN!

I TRULY AM
GRATEFUL
TO YOU.



HA
HA
HA

I WAS ABLE TO
PLAY THE BEST
MATCH POSSIBLE
TODAY!

AND EVEN IN
FRONT OF MY
DAD TOO!



I-I...
HAD FUN
TOO.



BUT IT...
WAS FUN?









YOU
TEXTING
YOUR
GIRLFRIEND?





WANNA
COMPETE
TO SEE WHO
CAN MAKE IT
FURTHEST
IN THIS
TOURNAMENT?

SO,
MARIO
-KUN...



EH?



I WAS
ABLE TO
DEFEAT THE
INCREDIBLE
PETE.

YEAH,
I DID!

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

OOOOOH!
CONGRAT-
ULATIONS!

I ALSO
MANAGED
TO WIN
SOMEHOW.



I HAVE TO
GO CHECK
WHO MY NEXT
OPPONENT IS



AT THE
LEAST, I
THINK I
CAN STILL
MAKE IT
FURTHER.

IF WE'RE
PLANNING ON
GOING PRO,
WE CAN'T BE
SATISFIED
OVER JUST
A SINGLE
VICTORY.



S-SO
DO I...



THAT'S
GREAT,
CONGRATS!

HMM...
YOU WON,
HUH.



THAT
GOT GOOD
FOR YOU!

THANK
YOU.

I COMBINED
A BUNCH OF
THINGS I'VE
LEARNED AND
THINK IT TURNED
OUT PRETTY
WELL.



I- I THINK
IT'S A BIT
UNFAIR TO
COMPARE
THE TWO
OF US...



STILL, I WON
THAT ENTIRE
TOURNAMENT
WHEN I WAS
18 THOUGH.



AH...
I'LL DO
MY BEST.

I INTENDED
THAT TO COME
ACROSS AS
TELLING YOU
THIS IS ONLY
THE START
THOUGH?



SEX. 1117 1117







JUST YOU
WAIT FOR THE
NEXT TIME
WE MEET,
SOU-CHAN

N-
NAGCHANE



NO I MEAN, YOU
WERE THE ONE
WHO CALLED
WHILE WE WERE
EATING AND
INTERRUPT US.

COME ON...
COULD
YOU NOT
INTERRUPT
US?

YOU'RE...
THE ONE
WHO SAID
IT WAS
OKAY...



SORRY TO
YOU TOO,
MARLO-
KLIN.



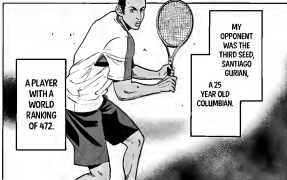
AAAAAAAAA
MY BAD, I WAS JUST
SCREWING WITH YOU.
I SAID I WAS
SORRY...



BE ALL
LOVEY-
DOVEY
TO YOUR
HEART'S
CONTENT.

GO
AHEAD.





A PLAYER
WITH A
WORLD
RANKING
OF 472.

MY
OPPONENT
WAS THE
THIRD SEED,
SANTIAGO
GURIAN,

A 25
YEAR OLD
COLUMBIAN.



HE'S AT
AROUND THE
SAME LEVEL
AS ALEX AND
TRASHA-
SAN.



AND A
STRAIGHT
BACKHAND
WITH BOTH
SPEED AND
WEIGHT
BEHIND IT.

HIS STRENGTHS
INCLUDE NIMBLE
FOOTWORK ON
THE BASELINE.





**FIRST SET
WON BY
GURIAN**



**AND
I LOST
THE SET.**

**IN THE FIRST SET,
HIS BACKHAND
CAUSED ME TOO
MUCH TROUBLE,
HE BROKE TWICE**



**HE BECAME THE
FIRST PRO THAT
I PLAYED IN AN
OFFICIAL MATCH.**



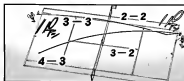
HOWEVER,
LEADING
OFF THE
SECOND
SET,



AS WELL AS
WHAT BALLS
I SHOULD USE
TO CAUSE HIM
TO MAKE SOME
MISTAKES.



I WAS ABLE
TO FIGURE
OUT ITS
PATTERNS
AND TIMING



FROM THEN
ON, I FOUGHT,
KEEPING MY
SERVE BUT
UNABLE TO
BREAK.



AND
FINALLY WE
CAME TO A
TIEBREAKER.







THE FACT I
HAD GOOD
PROSPECTS
AGAINST A
PRO EQUAL
TO ALEX OR
TAKUMA-SAN
MEANS...



MY OPPONENT
WAS A PRO
RANKED IN THE
TOP 500.

BUT...

GOTTEN
STRONGER!!



Because this volume has an extra chapter and therefore no end of volume comment, I'll be putting one in the middle!

Just before this 31st volume was published, this manga won the Kodansha Manga Prize!

What do I say...! I really wasn't expecting it so I was surprised! I'm very happy.

It's thanks to the tennis players and participants who gladly let me interview them, and the support of my staff, editors, family, friends, and most importantly, you, my readers.
Thank you so much!!

This year, Japan advanced to the best 8 world groups for the first time in the Davis Cup. Nishikori Kei was also the first Japanese male to make it into the top 10 world rankings. There has been lots of great news in regards to tennis (and it's only May!!). It fills me with joy to be drawing a tennis manga in such a time.

This volume finally begins the All-Japan Championship. I'm personally looking forward to seeing how Ei-chan will play his matches!

Thank you once again for reading.

2014.5.

Katsuki Hikaru



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Island

PROOFREADER

Sniffy6642

TYPESETTING

Flair

PRODUCED BY

NESMO

CHARACTER

MuchH2O

QUALITY CHECKER

Kyoji Koi

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BRADENTON
OPEN. THREE
DAYS AFTER
ENCHIRO'S SE-
COND ROUND
FIGHT,

THE
SECOND SEED
ALEX HAS TAKEN
THE UPPER HAND
IN THE FINALS.

#293 OUT OF SIGHT



30 - 15



GOOD SHOT,
BIG BRO!









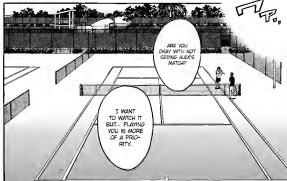
ALRIGHT.
LET'S GO!



O-OF COURSE!
I WAS THINKING
OF ASKING THE
SAME.



GAME ALEX
FIRST SET
2 - 0



ARE YOU
OKAY WITH NOT
SEEING ALEX'S
MATCH?

I WANT
TO WATCH IT
BUT... PLAYING
YOU IS MORE
OF A PRI-
ORITY.





I REALLY FEEL
THAT I'VE GOTTEN
STRONGER...

I CAME
TO FLORIDA
AND BEAT
PETE...

BUT I
STILL HAVE
A LOT LEFT
TO DO.



I PLAYED
MATCHES YESTERDAY AND THE
DAY BEFORE AND
HAD A HARD PRACTICE
AFTERNOON
SO I'M STILL
FATIGUED.

FROM THE
MAIN MATCHES:
IT'S A 48-DRAW
FORMAT SO YOU
HAVE TO WIN AT
LEAST 6 MATCHES
IN A ROW TO GET
1ST PLACE.

YOU NEED TO WIN 3
GAMES IN THE ALL-
JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIP
QUALIFIERS TO GET
INTO THE MAIN
MATCHES...

IN OTHER
WORDS, ALMOST
EVERY DAY YOU
HAVE TO COMPETE
IN 3 SET MATCHES
AND WIN ALL 9
OF THOSE.









STRIKE
FIRST TO WIN!
I'LL BE AG-
GRESSIVE...

MY
TENNIS ISN'T
AS SIMPLE AS
IT WAS BACK
THEN, THOUGH!



AAA!



HE'S BENDING
DOWN THE LINE
EVEN MORE THAN
LAST TIME!



BUT FOR
ME...

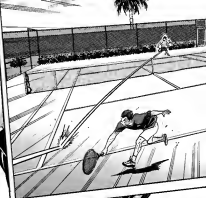
















SHT... IF I
COULD HAVE JUST
HELD AFTER THE
FIRST SET... NO,
TODAY WAS JUST
FRUSTRATING.

IF THIS IS
THE CURRENT
MARLIO-KUN'S
ABILITY...

I LOST
4-6 6-4
7-6 7-5!



HE'S A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
PERSON FROM
2 MONTHS
AGO!

THANK
YOU
FOR THE
MATCH!





ALL OF THEM...
I WANT TO PLAY
IN THEM.



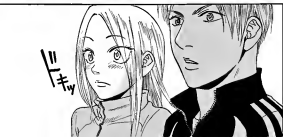
SOMEDAY...
IN ORDER TO
PLAY ALEX.



FUTURES.
CHALLENGERS.

MASTERS,

GRAND
SLAM...



!!
#4

EVEN
THOUGH HE
WAS SO SMALL
HALF A YEAR
AGO...

MARIO-
ADRI, CAN
YOU EXPLAIN
SOMETHING IN
YOUR NOTES
FOR ME?

AH,
OKAY!

DE
ADRI, I'M STILL
JUST ADDING
YOU FOR NOW,
BUT I - HOW
DO I SAY THIS
IN ENGLISH?



WHY
DO YOU
HAVE A FOREIGN
NAME HERE...?

MARIO?



MARIO...
MARIO HAS A
GIRLFRIEND
YA KNOW.



WHAT...
HE'S TALKING
SO BIG...



THAT'S
IRRELEVANT!



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NEW POWER

FA

TRANSLATOR

Island

PROOFREADER

Sniffy0642

TYPESETTER

Bentley

EDITOR

NESMO

CHECKER

MuchH2O

QUALITY CHECKER

Kyo no Koi

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SOUJI, YOU'RE
GOING BACK TO
JAPAN TOGETHER
WITH MARIO,
HUM?



TWO
DAYS
LATER

#294 RIVALS



BUT I DIDN'T THINK
YOU HADN'T WORLD
RANKING POINTS
AT THE ALL JAPAN
CHAMPIONSHIP?

WELL I'M
JAPANESE, BUT
I HAVEN'T EVEN
PARTICIPATED
ONCE.

IT'S ABOUT TIME
I PROVE MYSELF
TO BE JAPAN'S
NUMBER ONE!



THIS YEAR, LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO SPRUNG UP IN MY GENERATION WILL BE THERE. SOCCERS MARIO AND HISA. THERE ARE QUITE A FEW OTHERS AS WELL.



HMM... IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'LL BE TAKING A DETOUR FROM YOUR PATH TO BECOMING THE BEST IN THE WORLD THOUGH...



WELL, THAT'S HOW IT IS. I'VE BEEN OVER HERE FOR SO LONG, I REALLY SHOULD GO BACK FROM TIME TO TIME.

I ALSO MIGHT VISIT MY HOMETOWN. SO I CAN'T REALLY GO WRONG.



YOU'RE GOING THERE TO GIVE IT YOUR ALL, RIGHT? ON JAPAN'S TENNIS WORLD.



IT'S NOT JUST THAT, IS IT?



ALEX, PETE...

WORK HARD AND BECOME AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES, YOU GUYS.



THE
DAVIS
CUP?



GIVE ME A GOOD
SHOW AT THE DAVIS
CUP IN THREE YEARS.



THE NEXT TIME
WE MEET, I
WON'T LOSE!

YEAH, BUT I
FEEL LIKE WE'LL
BE SEEING EACH
OTHER AGAIN
SOON!

THANKS,
EVERYONE... I'LL
SEE YOU ALL
AGAIN.



ALRIGHT, THAT'S
ALL THE
LUGGAGE.

WELL THEN, SOLT
WILL BE BACK SOON,
BUT IT'LL BE A WHILE
BEFORE ANY OF YOU
SEE MARLO AGAIN.



THANK YOU
FOR TEACHING
ME ABOUT
BEACH TENNIS.

AH... MARCIA!



THANK YOU
VERY MUCH,
EVERYONE!



ALL
RIGHT!

MARUO-
KUN, LET'S
GO



MAKE IMO
PROUD!

GOOD LUCK!
LET'S MEET
AGAIN!

COME BY AGAIN
TO PRACTICE
SOMETIME!



THE TWO
MONTHS
OF TRAINING
CAME TO A
CLOSE.

LOOKING
TOWARDS THE
ALL JAPAN
CHAMPION-
SHIPS,





THE CHALLENGER
EGAWA TAKUMA HAS
QUICKLY TAKEN HIS
THIRD VICTORY!!



DON'T
YOU THINK
HE COULD
SURPASS
IKE SONGJI?

WHAT A
BREAK-
THROUGH
FOR A
FIRST-
YEAR
PRO!!

SUCH
AMAZING
FORCE!



HE'S BEEN
USING THE
SERVE AND
VOLLEY STYLE
THAT'S BEEN
SEEN AS
UNDISCOVERABLE
LATELY TOO...



WITH THIS
STYLE, THE
TOP 100
IS FINALLY
WITHIN HIS
REACH.

IS IT
REALLY
ONLY
ONE
TO
CHANCE
THE
GAINED?

WELL...





GAME SET
AND MATCH.
WON BY
ARAYA 7-5
6-4

WHAT AN
INCREDIBLE
COUNTER
SHOT.

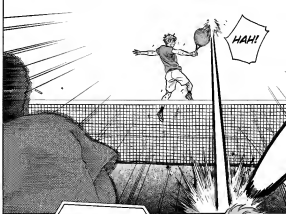
THOUGH
I MUST
SAY, HE'S
SO LOUD!

AN UNSEEN
HIGH SCHOOLER
PLAYING IN HIS
SECOND FUTURE
WAS ADVANCED
TO THE FINALIST!

HEL
YE
AA
AH!







GAME SET AND
MATCH, WON BY
YOSHI IDE 2-6
7-6 7-5.

YES!

HE MADE
ANOTHER
COMEBACK
VICTORY!

YOU'RE
AMAZING!

WHO IS THIS
ORIENTAL KID?







I'LL DECIDE
WHICH ONE I
WILL USE IN
THE NEXT TWO
OR THREE
DAYS.

THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.



WE
PREPARED
EVERYTHING
WE HAD.

AND
WEIGHTS
BALANCED
FROM TOP-
HEAVY TO
TOP-LIGHT.

THE
STRINGS
ARE ALL AT
THE SAME
TENSION.
WE'VE
GOT
FRAMES
RANGING
FROM
LIGHT TO
HARD.



NARAS-KUN,
IT WOULD BE
REALLY GREAT IF
WE COULD FIND
THE PERFECT
RACKET FOR
YOU...



I'M
CERTAIN
WE WILL.



16 HOURS
LATER,
JAPAN.



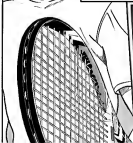




FROM HERE ON OUT,
WHILE RECOVERING
FROM THEIR
FATIGUE, EVERYONE
WORKED HARD IN
ORDER TO GET INTO
PROPER CONDITION.



THEY WANTED
TO PUT EVERYTHING
ON THE LINE
FOR ALL JAPAN
CHAMPIONSHIPS,
WHICH WERE TO BE
HELD IN 5 DAYS.



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PROOFREADER

Tenniel

TYPESETTER

Plus

PRODUCED BY

NESMO

CLAMOR

MuchHug90

QUALITY CHECKER

Kyan Kuo

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WITH
THE ALL JAPAN
CHAMPIONSHIP
A MERE 4 DAYS
AWAY, TRAINING
ENTERED ITS
FINAL STAGES.

TWO
DAYS
AFTER
RETURNING
TO JAPAN

#295 ESCORT





DON'T
TRY
TO
DO
ANY
MORE
THAT
TOUGH
STUFF...

IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU'VE
COMPLETELY
RECOVERED
YOURSELF, SINCE
YOU INJURED
YOUR OTHER...



I'VE
THINK YOU
MIGHT BE
RIGHT...

HEY, YOU
OKAY? DON'T
YOU THINK YOU'RE
OVERSTRAINING
YOURSELF FROM
THE NERVES
AGAIN?



YOU NEED
TO RELIEVE THE
TENSION ON BOTH
YOUR MIND AND
BODY SOME-
TIME...

THERE
IT IS!

ALRIGHT.
YOU'RE
FORBIDDEN
FROM HOLDING
A RACKET
TOMORROW.



IT MIGHT
BE A GOOD IDEA
TO PHYSICALLY
REMOVE YOURSELF
FROM ANYTHING
RELATED TO THE
DRAW OR TENNIS
IN GENERAL.

I KNOW
YOU'VE DONE
THIS BEFORE.
BUT YOU SHOULD
PRIORITISE "WHAT
YOU WANT TO DO"
OVER "WHAT YOU
HAVE TO DO."



JUST
TAKE IT EASY
AND DON'T PUT
ANY PRESSURE
UPON YOUR-
SELF

YOU KNOW
THE DEAL. TRY
YOUR BEST NOT
TO WORRY ABOUT
THE NITTY-GARTY
STUFF TOMOR-
ROW





PRIORITISE
"WHAT YOU WANT
TO DO."

ALRIGHT!

WHERE
SHOULD
WE GO
THEN?



REALLY?
SOUNDS
GREAT!

I'LL
COME!
WHERE
TO?



OH!
LET'S GO
TO SOME
THEN.

YES,
YES! THERE ARE
TONS OF PLACES
I WANNA GO!



SURE,
BUT WHERE
WOULD WE
GO THERE?

THAT'S IT!
EVER WANTED
TO GO ON A
DAY TRIP?

HOW ABOUT
TOKYO OR
SOMETHING?

OKAY,
JUST LEAVE
IT TO ME
THEN.



HMM? WELL
LET'S SEE...
JUST WANT
A SEC.



HMMMM...





TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO COME HERE FOR A WHILE. IT WAS FEATURED IN A MAGAZINE.

HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS CAFE, NAGACHAN?



IT'S KIND OF HARD TO SIT STILL.

THAT'S TRUE. BUT...



WE'RE BOTH ALWAYS PRACTICING, SO IT'S NOT OFTEN WE CAN COME OUT TO PLACES LIKE THIS, RIGHT?



IT'S EVEN A FIRST FOR ME COMING TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.



NOT TO MENTION THE ALL-JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIP IS BEING HELD AT A STADIUM IN JEROME, TOKYO.

AH... THAT'S RIGHT.



I KNOW THE FEELING, BUT I THINK FLORENCE WOULD BE EVEN WORSE?



I FEEL LIKE TOKYO IS A BIT MUCH...







YEAH. IN
THAT CASE,
LET'S GO
THIS WAY



LISTEN. SO
WE'VE STILL
GOT SOME TIME
LEFT. IS THERE
ANYWHERE ELSE
YOU WANT TO
GO?



EH...?
WHY?

I WAS
JUST THINKING
YOU REALLY
ARE AMAZING
MAGGIAN.



BEING
ABLE TO
DO THAT IS
AN AMAZING
THING TO
ME.

YOU KNOW
RIGHT AWAY WHAT
YOU WANT TO DO
WITHOUT SPENDING
ANY TIME WORRY-
ING OVER IT.



JUST
BEGINNING TO
THINK ABOUT THE
FUTURE MAKES
ME FEEL LIKE MY
HEAD'S ABOUT
TO BLOW UP.



YOU
THINK?

I THINK
YOU'RE EVEN MORE
AMAZING FOR BEING
ABLE TO PLAN OUT A
COURSE OF ACTION
AND IMPLEMENT IT.



YEAH, BUT
TENNIS MATCHES
ARE LONG, AREN'T
THEY? YOU REALLY
DO HAVE TO FORM
A SOLID PLAN OR
YOU'LL BE IN
TROUBLE.



THE ABILITY
TO DECIDE
BASED ON WHAT
YOU EXPERIENCE IS
MORE IMPORTANT
THAN THE ABILITY
TO THINK.



WHILE IT'S TRUE
PLANNING *SHOULD* BE
AN IMPORTANT PART
OF TENNIS, IN THE END,
THE RESULT IS DECIDED
BY HOW YOU COUNTER
YOUR OPPONENT IN
THE MOMENT.



SO I
WAS HOPING
TO HAVE SOME
FUN TOGETHER
WITH YOU AND
FORGET ABOUT
TENNIS...

WELL, IT'S JUST
ACH-SAN TOLD
ME I SHOULD
RELAX TODAY.



Huh?
why?



WHAT'S
WRONG?

DAMMIT!
BEFORE I KNEW
IT HE HAD STARTED
DEBATING OVER
TENNIS...

THAT'S
RIGHT...

DON'T
SWEAT
THE NITTY-GRITTY.

Heh?

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT THAT
NITTY-GRITTY
STUFF



RELAXING
MEANS TO
DO WHAT
YOU WANT,
RIGHT?

THAT'S
WHY... LOOK
AT THIS.



Eh?
A TENNIS
SHOP?



I MEAN,
AFTER DOING
NOTHING BUT
PLAYING TENNIS
FOR SUCH A LONG
TIME, SUDDENLY
BEING AWAY FROM
IT DOESN'T FEEL
RIGHT, DOES
IT?



I FIGURED
IT WAS ABOUT
TIME YOU'D START
FUSSING OVER
TENNIS.



AND WHEN
I STARTED TO
THINK ABOUT
TENNIS, THERE
WAS A THING
SAID...

WHEN
I WANTED
TO REST,
THERE WAS
A PERK...

EH...?
BUT...
NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT...



I
THOUGHT OUT
EVERYTHING
AND DID SOME
SUPER PLANNING
FOR THIS DATE
COURSE.

YES!
THAT'S
BECAUSE
YESTER-
DAY...



THAT'S RIGHT,
JUST LIKE YOU DO, I
THOROUGHLY ANALYSED
YOU AND THOUGHT UP
SOMETHING IN
ADVANCE.

EH?
EEEEH?
THEN UP
UNTIL NOW,
TODAY HAS
BEEN...











YAMAGUCHI-KUN,
ASANO-KUN... I'LL
INTRODUCE YOU.

THOSE
TWO OVER
THERE WILL
ALSO BE
PARTICIPAT-
ING.



WE
WILL BE...
BUT I'M ONLY
STARTING IN
THE PRELIM-
INARIES.



THIS IS
HARIO-KUN
WHO QUALIFIED
FOR THE PRELI-
MINARY ROUND
AFTER MAKING THE
BEST 4 IN THE
ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR.



HELLO.

HEY
THERE.

YAMAGUCHI-
KUN IS THE 10TH
SEED IN THE MAIN
TOURNAMENT. HE'S
28 YEARS OLD AND
HAS BEEN A PRO
FOR 6 YEARS.

HE'S
ALREADY 30,
SO HE MIGHT
JUST BE THE
ELDEST IN THE
TOURNAMENT.

THE
HAPPY-GO-LUCKY
ASANO-KUN IS
STARTING FROM
THE PRELIMINARIES
IF I RECALL.

AND NEXT
TO HIM IS THE
ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR
FEMALE CHAMPION,
TAKASAKI-SAN.



THE ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR, HUNY THAT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.

N-NICE TO MEET YOU.

YAMAGUCHI JOLI, 11TH IN THE JAPAN RANKINGS.

AND ASANO SHUN IS SOMEONE I MIGHT FACE OFF AGAINST IN THE PRELIMINARY-ROUND!



YES, WE ARE.

AH...

COULD IT BE YOU TWO ARE ON A DATE TODAY??



THOUGH I MUST SAY, YOU'RE EVEN CUTER IN REAL LIFE.

I KNOW YOU TAKASAKI-SAN!

YOU'RE ALWAYS FEATURED IN MAGAZINES AND ARE SUPER POPULAR.



HE'S A BIT OF A FAN OF YOURS...

.....



WHY- ASANO-SAN, YOU'RE SERIOUSLY DEPRESSED??

PLEASE CUT IT OUT, GEEZ...! IT'S EMBARRASSING.

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TYPESETTER

Bentaki

EDITORIAL

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VIEWER

MuchH290

QUALITY CHECKER

Kyrie Kiz

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#296 RESOLUTION

C'MON...
WHAT
ARE YOU
ACTING ALL
SHOCKED
FOR?
How embarrassing

...

I SEE...
YES... A
DATE...

YAMAGUCHI JOU (28)
ASSOCIATION: IKEBE
JTA RANK 11

ASANO SHIN (35)
ASSOCIATION: FREE
JTA RANK 71

ASANO SHIN (35)
ASSOCIATION: FREE
JTA RANK 71

THAT'S ENOUGH!
DON'T SAY IT
OUT LOUD!!

It's embarrassing.

OH THAT'S RIGHT... SHE
TURNED DOWN YOUR
PROPOSAL, WAS IT?

HEY, STOP
IT! NOW'S
NOT THE
TIME!

AND I
WAS NOT
DUMPED!

SORRY
ABOUT THIS.
YOU SEE, HE
WAS RECENTLY
DUMPED...

It's embarrassing!

OH THAT'S
RIGHT... SHE
TURNED
DOWN YOUR
PROPOSAL.
WAS IT?

HEY, STOP
IT! NOW'S
NOT THE
TIME!

AND I
WAS NOT
CLUMSY!

SORRY
ABOUT THIS.
YOU SEE, HE
WAS RECENTLY
DUMPED...







THANK
YOU TOO,
ONDEAWA-
SAN.

S-SEE
YA THEN.



YOU
REALLY ARE
THE MOST
ANNOYING
GUY I KNOW!

I'LL GIVE...
I THINK
THEY WERE
A LITTLE TOO
STUNNING FOR A
DISAPPOINTMENT
OF A 35 YEAR
OLD SUCH AS
YOURSELF.



THIS MAY SOUND
OBVIOUS, BUT... I
WAS JUST THINKING
HOW MY NEXT MATCH
WILL BE AGAINST
SOMEONE OUTSIDE
OF MY AGE GROUP...



HUH? OH,
NOTHING...

WHAT'S
WRONG,
BI-CHAN?



HOW MY
OPPONENT
WAS AN
ADULT AND
NO LONGER
A JUNIOR.



YEAH.

I THOUGHT
THE SAME
IN MY LAST
MATCHES
TOO.

THESE
PEOPLE HAVE
LONG SINCE
PASSED IT...

WHILE I HAVEN'T
EVEN REACHED THE
STARTING LINE
YET...

IF I WANT TO
GAIN THE
CONFIDENCE
AND BELIEF
IN MYSELF
TO BECOME
A PRO...

I FIRST HAVE TO
BEAT ONE, OR
ELSE I WON'T
GET ANYWHERE.

ん？





BEFORE I
BECOME A
PRO...

I'VE BEEN
THINKING I'D
LIKE TO GO TO
A UNIVERSITY
IN AMERICA.



RIGHT
NOW...

JUST
LIKE
YOU...



I'VE BEEN
THINKING
A LOT
ABOUT MY
FUTURE.



AN
AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY...?

BY THAT YOU
MEAN GOING ON
AN EXCHANGE
PROGRAM
AND PLAYING
TENNIS WITH
AN AFFILIATED
SCHOOL?

YUP...



...HUH?

I KNOW
THAT WITH MY
ACHIEVEMENTS,
I'LL BE ABLE
TO GET INTO
A NUMBER OF
AMERICAN UNI-
VERSITIES WITH
A SCHOLARSHIP

BUT
DEPENDING
ON HOW I
DO IN THE
ALL-JAPAN
CHAMPIONSHIP,
MY OPTIONS
MIGHT
FURTHER
EXPAND



AFTERWARDS
WHEN I'M
SIGNING THE
CONTRACT
TO BECOME
A PRO,

MY
SPONSORS
SAID THEY
WILL ASSIST
ME UNDER
CERTAIN
CONDITIONS
TOO.



WOW...



SOLI-CHAN
MADE UP
HIS MIND TO
LEAVE WHEN
HE WAS
STILL
A KID...

AND
YOU WENT
OUT OF
YOUR OWN
ACCORD
AS WELL.

SO I'VE
STARTED TO
FEEL LIKE I
SHOULD DO
THE SAME.



IF I'M GOING
TO BECOME A
PROFESSIONAL
TENNIS PLAYER,
I'LL HAVE TO
LEAVE JAPAN
AND DEFEAT
OTHER PLAYERS
FROM AROUND
THE WORLD,
RIGHT?



IN REGARDS TO
THAT, I THINK
IT'LL ALREADY
BE TOO LATE
IF I JUST
WAIT FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY.

I FEEL LIKE
I WON'T BE
ABLE TO WIN
UNLESS I GO
OUT THERE
MYSELF.

WHAT IT IS
I SHOULD
BE DOING...

THAT'S
WHY THIS
TIME...

I'VE ACTUALLY
THOUGHT THIS
THROUGH. IT'S
NOT JUST A
WHIM OF MINE.

I'M THINKING
THIS WILL
BE THE BEST
DECISION
FOR ME.

CONSIDER-
ING THE
COSTS AS
WELL...

NOT TO
MENTION
THEY SPEAK
ENGLISH, THE
MOST PREVALENT
LANGUAGE IN
THE WORLD...

PLUS IT'S
CLOSER TO
HOME THAN
EUROPE, AND
I'VE ALREADY
BEEN BEFORE.

AND THE
ENVIRON-
MENTS THOSE
UNIVERSITIES
PROVIDE WILL
SET ME UP
WELL TO
BECOME A
PRO TOO.

BUT I
THINK IT'LL
BE WITHIN
4 YEARS.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHEN I'LL
BECOME
ONE...

YOU'LL BE
LIVING IN
AMERICA
THEN,
RIGHT?

OBVIOUSLY
THAT
IMPLIES...

4
YEARS?!

I THINK
I'LL END
UP THERE
UNTIL I
BECOME
A PRO.

YEAH...



THE
REASON
I'M STILL
UNSURE
DESPITE
ALL THE
POSITIVES...



JUST 2
MONTHS
WAS PRETTY
TOUGH, BUT
4 YEARS?



IT'S BECAUSE I
WAS TOGETHER
WITH YOU, THAT
I STARTED TO
THINK THIS WAY.

BUT, IT'S
BECAUSE I
MET YOU...



IS BECAUSE
I DON'T LIKE
THE IDEA OF
SPENDING SO
MUCH TIME
AWAY FROM
YOU...







IT'S
ALRIGHT...
DON'T
WORRY.

I'LL
SUPPORT
YOU MORE
THAN
ANYONE.





10	All Japan Championship Preliminaries	11
Arkie Coliseum Practice begins at 9:00		
17		18





IT'LL FEEL
LIKE WE'RE
FIGHTING
TOGETHER,
EVEN WHEN
WE CAN'T
BE AT EACH
OTHER'S
MATCHES.



HEY,
HEY. LET'S
BUY THESE
SWEATBANDS.

WE'LL
GET
MATCHING
PAIRS.



IN THE
ALL JAPAN
CHAMPIONSHIP!

LET'S
BOTH
DO OUR
BEST...





TOKYO
AJINOMOTO
NATIONAL
TRAINING
CENTRE

4 DAYS BEFORE
THE ALL JAPAN
CHAMPIONSHIP
MAIN ROUND

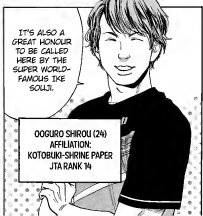


SORRY FOR
CALLING YOU
OUT HERE,
OOGURO-SAN.



IT'S
FINE. I
DON'T
MIND.

THIS PLACE IS
OFF LIMITS TO
THOSE WHO HAVEN'T
BEEN CHOSEN AS
MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL TEAM
AFTER ALL.



IT'S ALSO A
GREAT HONOUR
TO BE CALLED
HERE BY THE
SUPER WORLD-
FAMOUS IKE
SOUJI.

CUT IT
OUT, WILL
YOU.

OOGURO SHIROU (24)
AFFILIATION:
KOTOBUKI-SHRINE PAPER
JTA RANK 14

≠

AH.

GOOD
MORNING!



MONMA-SAN
WILL BE
COMING TO
COURT B...

SO WE'LL
GET TO SEE
BOTH THE
NUMBER 1 AND
2 IN JAPAN
PRACTICE
TODAY.

AND HIS
PRACTICE
OPPONENT
IS...

A 9:00 ~ Ike-Doguro

B 9:00 ~ Monma-Egawa



EGAWA TAKUMA (19)
AFFILIATION: HEAD
JTA RANK 9

HEY.

MONMA AYUMU (29)
AFFILIATION: KANTO BANK
JTA RANK 2

Baby Steps

Created by Katsuki Hikaru

and brought to you by



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<http://fathersangel.net/>

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NEW POWER

FA

TRANSLATOR

Island

PROOFREADER

Sniffy0642

TYPESETTING

Betrail

EDITING

Os

VIEWER

Much090

QUALITY CHECKER

Kyo Kio

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EXTRA CHAPTER

OCTOBER
23RD.

NOW THAT
I THINK OF IT,
WHEN IS YOUR
BIRTHDAY
NACCHAN?



TM: "SUMMER" IN JAPANESE IS "NATSU".





THEN IN EARLY
SEPTEMBER
AFTER LOSING IN
THE ALL-JAPAN
JUNIOR.





I WONDER HOW MUCH STRONGER I CAN GET IN THE TWO MONTHS LEADING UP TO THE ALL-JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIPS...

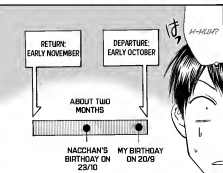


I WILL BE A BIT LONELY NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE NACCHAN FOR TWO MONTHS THOUGH...

I DIDN'T GET HOMERICK EITHER, SO I THINK IT'LL BE FINE...



LAST TIME I ONLY WENT FOR TWO WEEKS, BUT I WAS STILL ABLE GET SO MUCH SATISFYING TRAINING...



H-H-HH?



NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE WILL BE AWAY FROM EACH OTHER SINCE WE STARTED DATING...

WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER ALMOST EVERY DAY...



WE WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER SO IT WASN'T REALLY AN ISSUE THOUGH...

HEH... NOW THAT I BREAK IT DOWN LIKE THIS...



ACTUALLY FOR TWO OF THE MONTHS WE'VE BEEN DATING THERE HAVE BEEN TOURNAMENTS LEFT AND RIGHT. WE'VE ONLY HAD ONE DATE THAT EVEN FELT LIKE A DATE...

THE DATES OVERLAP PERFECTLY...



WE WON'T SEE EACH OTHER FOR OUR FIRST BIRTHDAYS SINCE WE STARTED DATING?!



NORMALLY WHEN YOU'RE IN A RELATIONSHIP, YOU'LL GO ON DATES EVERY WEEK, AND ON THE SECOND DATE YOU'LL KISS. THEN AFTER A MONTH OR SO YOU'LL GO TO EACH OTHER'S HOUSE.

REFERENCE

WE PRACTICALLY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING COUPLE-RELATED...?



YOU CAN'T JUST DO THAT.



NACCHAR... WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE HER FOR TWO MONTHS...



GO FOR IT!





LISTEN...
I HAVE A
FAVOR TO
ASK...

HM?



NA-
NACCHAN!



WELL... I...
WILL BE IN
AMERICA
FOR TWO
MONTHS.
RIGHT?

WHAT'S
GOTTEN
INTO YOU
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?

You're so
serious...



A SMARTPHONE?

I'D LIKE YOU TO
EXCHANGE YOUR
MOBILE FOR A
SMARTPHONE
WITH ME...



WHAT...
DO YOU
THINK...?

BUT WHILE I'M
AWAY, KNOWING
THAT I CAN
SEE YOUR FACE
AND TALK TO
YOU ANYTIME
I LIKE WILL
BE REALLY
REASSURING...



IF WE
BOTH HAVE
SMARTPHONES,
IT SEEMS WE
CAN VIDEO
CALL...

THAT SAID, I
KNOW IT'S NOT
CHEAP, AND I
DON'T THINK
IT'S REALLY THE
KIND OF THING
I CAN REQUEST
OF YOU.





DON'T KEEP
THAT TO
YOURSELF...

I WON'T
NOTICE
ANYTHING
IF YOU DO.



OKAY...



I'M GOING
TO GET THEM
TO BUY ME
SMARTPHONE!

EVEN IF I
HAVE TO GET
DOWN ON MY
KNEES AND
BEG...



PLUS YOU'VE
BEEN USING
THAT MOBILE
FOR MORE THAN
TWO YEARS
BY NOW!

Don't forget
to talk to us
every day!

THEY
BOUGHT
ME ONE
WITHOUT
A SECOND
THOUGHT.

A
SMART-
PHONE?
I SEE...

CONSIDERING
YOU'RE GOING
AWAY FOR
TWO MONTHS
OVERSEAS, IT'LL
BE EASIER TO
COMMUNICATE
QUICKLY.





OP: JAGHOLLEN



EXTRA CHAPTER ☆ END

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Much0290

QUALITY CHECKER

Kyan Ku

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AJIOMOTO
NATIONAL TRAINING
CENTER, TENNIS
COURTS

GOOD
MORNING,
MONMA-
SAN.
AND...
TAKUMA-
SAN.

OH, YOU'RE
PRACTICING WITH
OGURI...?

IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE,
IKE.

#297 RESONANCE



WELL,
ONCE HE JOINS
THE NATIONAL
TEAM HE'LL BE A
REGULAR HERE
I GUESS.

HE'S BEEN
COMING TO
PRACTICE AT
NITE A LOT
LATELY.



YEAH.

TODAY,
YOUR PRACTICE
PARTNER IS GOING
TO BE TAKUMA,
MOMMA-SAN?

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ELECTRONIC GOLFING CHAMPIONSHIP IS BEING HELD IN FACILITY FOR THE JAPANESE NATIONAL TEAM ON SPONSORED PLAYERS.



IT DOESN'T MAKE
ME HAPPY TO HEAR
THAT FROM SOMEONE
WHO ONLY APPEARS
IN HIGHER LEVEL
TOURNAMENTS...



YOU'RE
FINALLY
SHOWING
YOUR TRUE
ABILITY,
TAKUMA-
SAN!

IN
YOUR FIRST
YEAR AS A PRO,
YOU'VE WON 3
CHALLENGER
TOURNAMENTS
AFTER ALL.



I MEAN,
YOU'RE
OLD PALS
RIGHT...?

ONCE
HE'S ON THE
NATIONAL TEAM,
YOU'LL BE TEAM-
MATES, SO BE
FRIENDLY...



GAH-
GAH...





THE ALL-JAPAN HAS BEEN LONELY WITHOUT YOU.

SEE STOMACHS GROWLING



SPEAKING OF WHICH, EGAWA.



I'M NOT FEELING SICK, OKAY...? I JUST DIDN'T EAT ENOUGH FOR BREAKFAST.



WAS
YOUR DRAW
CLOSE TO HIS,
OGURA-
SAN?

WHAT
KIND OF
PLAYER
IS HE?

YOU
OFTEN PLAYED
AGAINST NABE-
KUN DURING YOUR
SCHOOL YEARS,
RIGHT?



IT'S NOT
LIKE HIGH
SCHOOLERS
HAVEN'T WON
THE ALL-JAPAN
IN THE PAST
EITHER...

PEOPLE
SAY HE'S GOT A
HIGH LEVEL OF PLAY,
AND HE'S THE BEST
AMONG THIS YEAR'S
HIGH SCHOOLERS.
HE SHOULD BE
CAREFUL OF
HIM.



LAST YEAR,
HE MADE IT INTO
THE BEST 16 FOR
THE ALL-JAPAN AS
A SECOND-YEAR IN
HIGH SCHOOL.

YEAH,
EVEN THOUGH
HE'S PRETTY
WELL-KNOWN,
I'VE NEVER
SEEN HIM
PLAY.

AND
THIS YEAR
HE EVEN WON
THE OGIKAWA
MAYOR'S
CUP...



WOULDN'T
IT BE BETTER
TO GET ADVICE
FROM HIM?

BUT DIDN'T
MONMA-SAN
BEAT HIM IN
LAST YEAR'S
ALL-JAPAN?



EVEN
IF YOU ASK
ME TO EXPLAIN
THE KINDS OF
PLAYS HE
MAKES...

IT'S PRETTY
DIFFICULT TO
EXPLAIN.

ANYWAY...
HE'S A PLAYER
WHO CAN DO
ANYTHING AND
USES HIS HEAD,
LEAVING NO
OPENINGS.





MONMA-
SAN'S PRETTY
INTO THIS...

HIS
FEELING'S
TOWARDS THE
ALL-JAPAN
ARE THE REAL
DEAL.



YEAHH!
KEEP 'EM
COMING!!

BEANS
ISN'T
LOSING
EITHER...

I'VE
GOT TO KEEP
WORKING
HARD TOO.

THERE'S
NO DOUBT THAT
JEE'S INFLUENCE
HAS BEEN CAUSING
THE YOUNGSTERS
TO GROW RAPIDLY
AS OF LATE.



全日本選手権A予選

所属

2000

Sp.	JTF	リーグ	選手名	所属
34	1	新田 健一	福岡大学	
35		橋本 隆	東武TA	
36		小野寺 達弘	かがみイーストユニバースアカデミー	
37		吉村 雅也	ルノー	
38		佐野 真司	私立大学	
39		竹元 智雄	フリー	
40		松本 剛	東海ブルームFC	
41	2	藤田 浩樹	日産フーズ	
42	3	黒田 陽太	本郷ジュニアスタジアム	
43		西田 恭	ユニバーサル	
44		山下 悠	東海ジュニアユニバース	
45		増田 俊	大日本大学	
46		佐々木 達也	フリスビー&DS	
47		村田 元	東海FMHセア	
48		河村 純一	フリー	
49	4	大谷 健一郎	フリー	
50	5	村中 和智	松本銀行	
51		島田 達也	クオオネサージュ	
52		上田 隆弥	東海大学	
53		高木 彰	本郷	
54		井口 真直		
55	100	長谷 真		
56		西 耕輔		
57	1	佐藤 博		
58	4	中村 隆		
59		金子 京平		
60		石井 健一		
61		長崎 洋		
62		田中 拓		
63		山口 貴博		
64		小野田 浩		
65	12	船橋 肇		
66	5	高橋 幸介	フットボール	
67	100	増田 久志	東海ユニバース	
68		船橋 和巳	東海ユニバース	
69		橋本 剛	ルノー	
70		佐野 真司	大日本大学	
71		上島 健太	オーストラリアユニバース	
72		佐々木 達也	HR北海道	
73	10	高橋 真生	東海大学	
74	6	松本 剛	東海大学	
75		藤田 浩樹	日産フーズ	
76		丸尾 健一郎	STC	
77		小西 公男	松本銀行	
78		増田 隆	フリー	
79		佐々木 達也	P-TEAM	
80		木村 聖	東海大学	
81	11	河村 純一	ユニバーサル	

NOW HERE'S
THE BRACKET FOR
THE PRELIMINARIES
OF THIS ALL-JAPAN
CHAMPIONSHIP...

NOW HERE'S
THE BRACKET FOR
THE PRELIMINARIES
OF THIS ALL-JAPAN
CHAMPIONSHIP...

THE RAPIDLY
GROWING BOYNA
MAKING HIS FIRST
APPEARANCE, A
YOUNGSTER WITH
PLenty OF MO-
MENTUM

AND
FINALLY, IKE
SQUAD'S PARTI-
CIPATING IN THE
WAR THIS TIME
AROUND.

THIS YEAR'S
ALL-JAPAN
CHAMPIONSHIP
IS GOING TO BE
EXCITING!

MONIMA-SAN,
WHO IS AMING
FOR HIS FIFTH
CONSECUTIVE
TITLE AND IS IN
TOP FORM.



KUDO-GEN
AND ARUO-GEN
ARE IN DIFFERENT
BRACKETS SO
HE WON'T FACE
EACH OTHER.



YOU HAVE
TO WIN THREE
TIMES TO PASS
THE PRELIMI-
NARIES.



HEIGHT

WEIGHT

SKILL LEVEL

REMARKS

OBTAINING
HE'LL HAVE LESS
STAMINA, POWER,
AND TECHNIQUE
THAN A GUY LIKE
YOU WHO PLAYS
TENNIS ALL THE
TIME.

HE WORKS
FROM MORNING
TO NIGHT, AND
MANAGED TO GET
TO THIS RANK BY
PRACTICING IN HIS
LEFTOVER TIME.
A TRULY AMAZ-
ING GUY.



HE'S AN OSA-
TEUR WHO HAS
PERFORMED WELL
IN HIS COMPANY'S
TEAM DURING THE
JAPANESE
LEAGUE.

YOUR
FIRST ROUND
OPPONENT IS A
BANKER, JTA
RANK 82.

郷田 俊

MARUO EIICHIRO

STC

KONISHI KIMIO

MATS

浅野 芯

フ

P-





BUT HE
PROBABLY
WON'T
BECOME
A PRO

SOMEONE
ASPIRING TO
BECOME A PRO
SUCH AS YOUR-
SELF SHOULDNT
LOVE TO HIM.



HE'S A
FOURTH-YEAR AT
JAPAN'S STRONGEST
COLLEGE, INADA
UNIVERSITY.

HE'S MADE
THE BEST 10 IN
THE ALL-JAPAN
STUDENT CHAM-
PIONSHIPS*.

THE
ONLY OTHER
THREAT IN THIS
BRACKET IS
THE 6TH SEED,
AKIMOTO.

24	37	4	中村 健	TTOS
25			五十 京介	エイトスター-TA
26			神 一郎	南星
27			池 裕	松
			田	
			高橋	
			田	
			豊	
			幸介	
			久志	
			和巳	
			橋士 司	
			宮沢 雄志	
			上島 雄治	
			植 慎吾	NRJ
32	10	宝珠源 晋生	藤枝大樹	
44	6	AKIMOTO SAKI	INADA UNIVERSITY	
60		徳田 信	日区フォーブ	
70		丸尾 信	TC	
44	12	小西 公男	徳行	
45	71	池野 志		
46	56	青木 竜馬		
47	34	木村 聖		
48	53	11 神戸 茂樹	TC	

*THE ALSO KNOWN AS "TAKASHI", A JAPANESE TENNIS DRIVEN FROM "DARTS-COLLAGE"



HE WAS
THE LAST PER-
SON I PLAYED
IN MY ACTIVE
CAREER.

I KNOW
ASANO-SAN
PRETTY
WELL.



EH?
YOU MET
ASANO-
SAN...?

YES...



AH...



SPEAKING OF
WHICH THE OTHER
DAY I MET THE
PERSON NAMED
ASANO-SAN.

6	成紀	
7	丸尾 第一郎	
8	小西 公男	
9	池野 志	
10	青木 竜馬	
11	神	TC



WHEN I
STILL ACTIVE, HE
WAS INCREDIBLY
STRONG.

RIGHT
NOW HE'S
STUCK AT
RANK 71
BUT...



EH...



ONCE
HE WAS EVEN
IN THE TOP
10 RANKINGS
FOR JAPAN.

HE'S A
TECHNICAL
PLAYER, MAKING
EFFICIENT USE
OF HIS SLICE IN
OFFENSIVE
PLAYS.



IN ANY CASE,
THE FACT HE'S
ABLE TO KEEP HIS
CURRENT RANK
DESPITE BEING 36
YEARS OLD IS
INCREDIBLE.

IT'S JUST,
A FEW YEARS
AGO I STOPPED
HEARING HIS
NAME GOING
AROUND.

SFX: HUA HUA



EVEN
THOUGH HIS
STAMINA AND
POWER HAVE
BOTH DE-
CLINED.

HE ONCE
MADE IT TO THE
TOP, AND WAS
A VETERAN'S
PLAY STYLE.

IF
YOU END UP
FACING HIM,
HE MAY BE
TROUBLE-
SOME.



IS
THAT
SO...





AND
NOW, I CAN
FIGHT FOR THAT
FUTURE I COULD
NEVER HAVE
IMAGINED.



YEAH...
THIS IS THE
BEST MENTALITY...

POWERLESSNESS → ANGER
→ PRESSURE → CHALLENGE



YES
SIR!

YEAH!
GO
HAVE A
GREAT
TIME!



BUT
THERE WERE
MANY PEOPLE
WHO TAUGHT ME
THAT TENNIS
WAS FUN...

MANY
PEOPLE WHO
MADE ME
STRONGER.



I'VE BEEN
THINKING BACK
BEFORE I
STARTED PLAYING
LATELY...
REMEM-
BERING
IT...

AT THE TIME,
I COULD NEVER
HAVE IMAGINED
THAT I'D PLAY IN
COMPETITIONS TO
DECIDE THE BEST
IN JAPAN.





RECEPTION





AH,
ARAYA-KUN,
KANDA-KUN!



YOO,
MARLIO!



IF WE FACE
EACH OTHER,
IT'LL BE IN THE
MAIN ROUND
MATCHES

YEAH.

WELL, WE ENDED UP
PERFECTLY SPLIT
INTO DIFFERENT
BRACKETS, HUH?



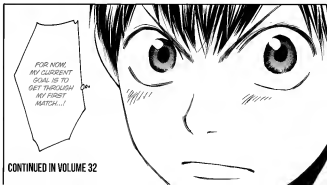
KONISHI...

I'VE
HEARD
THE NAME
BEFORE...
I THINK?

A GUY NAMED
KONISHI KIMIO...
DO EITHER OF
YOU KNOW HIM?



MARLIO-KUN,
WHO IS YOUR
OPPONENT IN
THE FIRST
ROUND?



CONTINUED IN VOLUME 32